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*Onnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturâ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.*

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We had an opportunity of visiting the Plant Houses in Mr. Harris's Nursery, a few days ago, ere they were despoiled of their flowers to supply material for Christmas decoration. The air was sweet with *Daphne odora* and heliotropes, whilst the green foliage of ferns and more stately palms was refreshing to the eye. The stock of plants is already very extensive, and constant additions of novelties are being made. Chinese Primroses are a speciality this winter with Mr. Harris, and his stock of strong plants has been brought on in a cool house, so as to enable them to stand better the atmosphere of sitting rooms. Among the novelties, Mr. H. pointed out several *pelargoniums*, tricolors, a double scarlet, a very fine Fancy, and a distinct horse-shoe sort called *Distinction*, remarkable for its compact habit and the neatness of its uniform flat round leaves with a very decided circle near the margin. *Echeverias* were shooting up flower stems, *Camellias* showing stray blooms, *Cinerarias* coming away very strong, one sort with double flowers. Over-head an old plant of *Bougainvillea speciosa* with a strong woody stem was showing, from its thick foliage, a few clusters of lilac-bracted flowers. The splendid *Strelitzia Reginae*, a Cape plant, named long ago in honour of Queen Charlotte, was likewise in bloom. Cactuses were scattered about, and a curious Japanese plant with small fleshy leaves and flowers like miniature dandelions, which Mr. Harris said was well adapted for hanging baskets. There

were numerous plants of the *Poinsettia pulcherrima*, with their gay scarlet bracts. The most remarkable plant, however, was *Bignonia venusta*, a South American climber, which, after many years, has at last come into flower, and rewarded Mr. H's patience and skill by magnificent wreaths of brilliant pale-orange blossoms, which any lover of plants would cheerfully travel miles to see.

A private correspondent writes:—"People are apt to confound mental training and acquisition of information. I maintain that Greek is quite sufficient to educate a man in one sense, or Chemistry or Botany, but probably, if he applied himself solely to these, he would miss the professional information necessary to earn his bread. On the other hand he might, and may, get all the necessary information without being educated. To educate a man you must give him a certain training which will not necessarily help him to earn his bread, *i. e.* which is not immediately convertible into money. In this country people scarcely see the good of this. I think no sight can be better in a country, and no life certainly is more philosophically elevated, than that of a well educated man, a man who can write English, and follow some of the best thoughts and strains of the ancients, devoting himself to Agriculture. The aim of our Universities ought to be this, not to turn out a few men with a smattering of everything, but to give youths tastes and habits of mind such as will keep them from sinking to the level of mere hinds when

they till the soil. The tilling of the soil is at present, for the most part, in the hands of an inferior set of men. It will be a happy day for Nova Scotia when her sons leave the College, well stored with learning and philosophy, to take up their dwelling in the country, instead of thinking that an education is only something convertible into cash, and not an elevating influence to operate silently in a private or even obscure circle of usefulness. I don't know whether I have expressed myself clearly, but I mean that people in this country seem to think that a man's profession must give him a standing, and that thus *professional knowledge* comes first, instead of more wisely holding that it is the *man*, by his intelligence and refinement, must have it in his power to elevate the profession, as *e. g.* agriculture. What are our country gentlemen in England and Scotland but examples of this?"

DR. CAMPBELL has made three interesting Fern finds at Truro, viz: *Struthiopteris Pennsylvanica*, *Asplenium thelypteroides*, and *Woodsia Ilvensis*. The *Struthiopteris* he describes as abundant, and varying in size from seven or eight inches high on the dry road sides, to as many feet in rich soils in the sheltered woods. The *Woodsia* was very scarce, and scarcely accessible. *Asplenium thelypteroides* plentiful.

THE Snowflake is reported upon by the Onslow Agricultural Society as a nice looking Potato producing a large yield.